

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1, 7, 8, 98, 111, 112, 115, 118, 131, 141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 155, 170, 171, 176 - 178, 186, 190, 192 - 194, 202, 203, and 216 - 220 are currently pending. Applicants amend claims 155 and 176 as to informalities. No new matter is added.

II. Non-Compliant Amendment

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed on June 4, 2007. The Examiner finds that in the Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action mailed on March 20, 2007, the listing of claims was non-compliant as including text with strikethrough in claims 112, 118, 147, 177, 193 and 194, which were marked with the status identifier "previously presented." As the text with strikethrough represents text that was earlier deleted in an Amendment mailed on September 25, 2006, Applicants correctly present the text of claims 112, 118, 147, 177, 193 and 194 in this Response by eliminating the text with strikethrough and maintaining the status identifiers as "previously presented." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the finding of non-compliance.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance as to all pending claims be issued in this case.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: June 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By Thomas J. Bean
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